

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 22, 2006, for the present application has been reviewed. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 and 10-19 are pending in the application. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. The limitations of Claim 5, which has been canceled, have been incorporated into Claim 1, thus placing the latter in condition for allowance. The present amendment also makes changes to various other claims. Considered together with the following remarks, these amendments are believed sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to the application.

Applicants disagree with the objection to the specification and request reconsideration. Claim 17 has been amended and is submitted for reconsideration.

Paragraph 7 of the specification has been amended to clarify the language. The abstract has also been amended to remove the word "means" even though "means" as it was submitted was not a noun, which would have made the same objectionable.

The present invention relates to an innovative system for forming pallets out of polymeric materials wherein sections can be connected together to provide pallets having a variety of desired overall dimensions.

An important feature of the invention is the fact that the pallet sections are all identical and have integrally molded legs which serve to support the pallet sections. The pattern of the legs and the openings in the pallets is such that the pallets can be stacked one upon the other with all of the legs facing one direction, i.e., the pattern of legs and openings on each of the pallet sections are complementary as to each other pallet section. Thus, as shown specifically in Figure 8 and fully described in Paragraph 0027, the holes and openings of each section are complementary. This results in the ability, as shown in Figure 8, to stack any two sections with the legs facing each other and protruding into the openings of another one of the sections so that the bottoms of the legs are flush with the top of the other pallet section. Therefore, surprisingly, it is possible to stack the pallets in this manner so that the thickness of the two inverted sections is actually no thicker than the thickness of a single section. Undersigned had

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the same initial reaction as set forth in the present Office Action that this must be impossible, until further consideration of Figure 8, which verifies the conclusion that the two invertedly-stacked sections are actually not any thicker than a single section. Additionally, considering Figure 8, it is possible to support additional containers 50 above the top of the stacked pallets. This novel arrangement is not feasible, to applicants' knowledge, with any other pallet arrangement that has heretofore been available.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 17 is highly unobvious. Claim 17 should therefore be allowable along with the other pending claims.

It will further be noted that Claim 7 has been amended similarly to Claim 1 to incorporate the novel features of Claim 5 and/or Claim 9, both of which have been canceled.

The amendments also delete the expression "lattice-like" which was objected to as creating indefiniteness. This rejection is therefore believed to be obviated.

As amended, all of the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. The reference to *Fengels* was cited to generally thus show the use of connectors. However, the subject matter of Claim 5 is now included in all of the claims and, hence, the claims are all believed to be allowable as amended.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have addressed each and every item presented by the Examiner in this Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of all of the claims as amended is earnestly solicited. Applicants submit that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance.

In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to:
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Date: August 11, 2006

Lorri A Rosier

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